

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 IO-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2581

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY APARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

USMISSION UN

USCINSEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6768

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS CAIRO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS LE SY

SUBJECT: LEBANESE- SYRIAN RELTIONS

REF: BEIRUT 6565

1. SEC GEN SADAQA OF LEBANESE FONOFFICE ASKED CHARGE CALL ON HIM LATE MORNING JUNE 8. HE PROCEEDED INFORM CHARGE AND EMB OFF OF HOW GOL SEES CURRENT SITUATION AS IT CONCERNS SYRIANS, LEBANESE LEFT AND FEDAYEEN. SADAQA READ FROM SEVERAL IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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TELLIGENCE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM LEBANESE AND JORDANIAN SOURCES IN WAY OF DOCUMENTING HIS CASE.

2. FIRST REPORT WAS FROM LEBANESE ARMY G-2 AND DESCRIBED BY

ARMY AS COMING FROM COMPLETELY RELIABLE SOURCE, WHO OBTAINED INTELLIGENCE FROM FEDAYEEN SOURCES IN BEIRUT. MAIN POINTS WERE: (A) IRAQ HAS OFFERED FEDAYEEN 6,000 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS AND 2,000 KALASHNIKOV RIFLES HAVE ARRIVED AT LATAKIA FROM USSR IN NAME OF ARAFAT; (B) ON MAY 21-22 TOP LEVEL FEDAYEEN MEETING DECIDED DISTRIBUTE 4,000 OF THESE INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS (AFTER DELIVERY IN LEBANON) TOVARIOUS FEDAYEEN UNITS AND 4,000 TO VARIOUS LEFTIST GROUPS ("NATIONALIST" OR "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES);

3. SECOND REPORT RECEIVED FROM JORDANIAN INTELLIGENCE AND CONCERNS FEDAYEEN PLAN TO TAKE QLAIAAT AIRPORT IN NORTH LEBANON USING SOME LEBANESE ARMY OFFICERS TO DEVELOP INTELLIGENCE ON AIRFIELD ANDITS DEFENSES. JORDANIANS ALSO REPORTED SMUGGLING OF LARGE QUANTITIES LIGHT AND HEAVY WEAPONS TO SEVERAL LEBANESE CITIES AND INTO SHOUF AREA WHERE THEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO LEFTIST GROUPS, INCLUDING THOSE OF KAMAL JUMBLATT AND NAJAH WAKIN (PRO SYRIAN NASSERIST DEPUTY).

4. ANOTHER LEBANESE REPORT INDICATES LARGE SUMS OFMONEY GIVEN BY ARAFAT TOCERTAIN MOSLEM AND LEFTIST LEADERS INORDER INFLUENCE THEM FAVORABLY TOWARD FEDAYEEN AND AGAINST GOL (AND FRANGIE). AMOUNTS CITED INCLUDED LL250,000 TO GRAND MUFTI SHAYKH HASSAN KHALED (SUNNI); LL500,000 TO LEFTIST FORMER DEPUTY ADNAN HAKIM (SUNNI); LL100,000 TO SHIA LEADER IMAM MUSA SADR; AND LL500,000 TO LEFTIST KAMAL JUMBLATT. MONEY REPORTED PAID OUT BY ABU JIHAD FROM FATAH TREASURY AT NABATIYEH. ANOTHER JORDANIAN REPORT SAYS THREE FEDAYEEN BEING SENT TO BAGHDAD TO ARRANGE FOR PURCHASE AND DELIVERY TO LEBANON OF SOME 930 "COBRA" MODEL WIRE GUIDED ANTI TANK ROCKETS WHICH REPORTEDLY HAVE RANGE OF 2 KILOMETERS AND ARE 190 CENTIMETERS LONG. NEW FEDAYEEN ROCKET UNIT TO BE ORGANIZED AND EMPLACED NEAR SYRIAN LEBANESE MAJOR BORDER CROSSING AREA AT MASNAA (WHERE FEDAYEEN TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY CUT ROAD AND HAD SEVERAL PITCHED BATTLES WITH LEBANESE ARMY IN EARLY MAY). ALSO SOME 250 OF KAMAL JUMBLATTS FOLLOWERS BEING SENT TO SYRIA FOR TRAINING.

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5. SADAQA SAID THAT WHILE SOME DETAILS OF THESE REPORTS MIGHT BE QUESTIONABLE, GOL IS CONVINCED THEY ARE MOSTLY TURE AND THAT THEY REPRESENT A CLEAR SYRIAN AND IRAQI THREAT TO LEBANON. THIS ALL THE CLEARER WHEN TAKEN TOGETHER WITH EXTRAORDIARY SARG BEHAVIOR VIS A VIS GOL AND CLOSURE OF BORDER. SYRIAN FONMIN HAS BEEN CONTACTED FOUR OR FIVE TIMES BY LEBANESE FONMIN OVER PAST WEEK YET HAS CONSISTENTLY AVOIDED ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON WHAT ARE BASIC PROBLEMS BETWEEN SYRIA AND LEBANON. INSTEAD HE LIMITS COMMENTS IN OFFICIAL CHANNELS TO COMPLAINTS ABOUT MINOR, SPECIFIC CASES (EG, TEMP ARREST OF 3 SYRIANS ON JUNE 6).

6. HOWEVER IN PUBLIC COMMENTS BY SYRIAN PRESS AND RADIO

AND IN WHAT TOPSYRIAN OFFICIALS SAYING TO LEBANESE WHO HAVE RECENTLY VISITED DAMASCUS (INCLUDING RAYMOND EDDE, ABDULLAH YAFI GROUP, AND ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN RIAD) SYRIANS MAKE WORST SORT OF ALLEGATIONS THAT LEBANESE GOVT AND ARMY HAVE NOT LIVED UP TO ARRANGEMENTS WITH FEDAYEEN AND THAT THEY ARE IN FACT PREPARING ANOTHER ARMED ATTACK IN EFFORT LIQUIDATE THE FEDAYEEN (SEE SEPTTEL FOR MORE DETAILS). GOL IS FORCED TO CONCLUDE THAT SYRIANS NOT SINCERELY INTERESTED IN RESOLVING ANY OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS BUT RATHER TO EXERT MAXIMUM POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE ON GOL AND PRES FRANGIE. DANGER IS THAT THEIS COULD EITHER BE PRETEXT FOR MORE ACTIVE AND FORCEFUL SYRIAN/ FEDAYEEN ATTACK ON LEBANON AT SOME FUT DATE OR THAT CAMPAIGN COULD CONVINCE FEDAYEEN THEY ARE REALLY IN DANGER, THEREBY CAUSING THEM TO START SOMETHING ON THEIR OWN.

7. IN REPLY TO QUESTION SADAQA SAID THAT IT OBVIOUS LEBANESE ARMY AND GOL NOT IN ANY WAY PREPARING TO ATTACK FEDAYEEN, ALTHOUGH ARMY TRYING MAINTAIN SOME CONTROL OVER FEDAYEEN MOVEMENTS AND ARMS SMUGGLING. THUS FAR FEDAYEEN HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TAKE ANY ACTION TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF MOST IMPORTANT POINTS OF THEIR " ARRANGEMENTS" WITH GOL, NAMELY THE REMOVAL OF HEAVY AND MEDIUM ARMS FROM CAMPS; THE REMOVAL OF FEDAYEEN REGULARS FROM CAMPS; THE TRANSFER OF FEDAYEEN HEADQUARTERS OUT OF LEBANON; AND THE TRANSFER OF ALL TRAINING OPERATIONS OUT OF CAMPS TO AGREED AREA NEAR BORDER WITH SYRIA. YET SYRIANS ARE TELLING ONE AND ALL THAT IT IS GOL WHICH DELINQUENT IN NOT KEEPING ITS BARGAIN WITH FEDAYEEN.

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8. IN SUMMING UP, SADAQA SAID THAT GOL WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF DEPT CONSIDERED ITSELF INPOSITION RAISE MATTER OF SYRIAN BEHAVIOR AND FEDAYEEN NON EXECUTION OF PROMISED WITH SOVS. HE SAID THAT GOL DOES NOT INTEND RAISE MATTER WITH AMB AZIMOV BECAUSE LEBANESE HAVE LEARNED HARD WAY THAT THEY CANNOT PLACE ANY STOCK IN WHAT AZIMOV SAYS, WHICH OFTEN FAILS TO CORRESPOND TO SOV DEEDS.

9. SADAQA ADDED THAT GRIM SITUATION AS GOL SEES IT MEANS THAT REINFORCING OF LEBANESE ARMY BECOMES ALL MORE IMPORTANT AND URGENT. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG WOULD SOON HAVE POSITIVE REPLY TO LEBANESE REQUEST FOR ARMS.

10. COMMENT: WHAT SADAQA HAD TO SAY ABOUT SYRIANS, LEBANESE LEFT AND FEDAYEEN IS JUST ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN REPORTING FOR SOMETIME. THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT SYRIAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRESSURE AND ARMS SUPPLY IS CAUSING SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR GOL BOTH IN BRINGING FEDAYEEN TO IMPLEMENT THEIR PROMISES AND IN DEALING WITH INDIGENOUS LEFTIST OPPOSITION. WE WOULD HOPE THAT EMBASSY MOSCOW OR DEPT COULD RAISE PROBLEM OF LEBANESE- SYRIAN- FEDAYEEN RELATIONS WITH SOVS IF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF, EVEN THOUGH WE REALIZE IT UNLIKELY HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON SYRIANS.

HOUGHTON

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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